



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/117,838	08/12/98	EPHSTEIN	0

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HM12/0720

EXAMINER

OWENS JR, H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1623

DATE MAILED: 07/20/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/117,838

Applicant(s)
Ephstein

Examiner
Howard Owens

Group Art Unit
1623



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8-4-1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Detailed Action

5 This application currently names joint inventors. In considering
patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner
presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was
commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were
10 made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised
of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and
invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the
time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to
consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35
15 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Specification

20 Objection to the abstract is maintained. The abstract should be
in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on
a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. The
25 abstract also appears to contain the misspelled word
"homeopathis".

Claim Objections

30 Claims 5-8 are objected to under 37 CAR 1.75(c), as being of
improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject
matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the
claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper
dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.
35 Claim 5 is drawn to a medicinal preparation comprising an active
medicinal substance in therapeutic dose and a potentiated

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homeopathic medicinal substance having a same chemical formula or composition as said active medicinal substance. Claims 6 and 8 are also drawn to a medicinal preparation comprising an active medicinal substance in therapeutic dose and a potentiated homeopathic medicinal substance. Neither claim 6 nor claim 8 set forth any subject matter which limits the composition set forth in claim 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the absence of a structural formula or chemical name, the following terms are seen to render the claims in which they appear indefinite in all occurrences: medicinal substance and medicinal preparation.

In claims 5-8, applicant recites a medicinal preparation which is produced by homeopathic methods and has initial chemical formula or composition identical with that of the said active substance. It is unclear as to how a compound that has the "identical" chemical formula as the active substance can be differentiated from the active substance and is not the active substance itself as products of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- 5 (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ecanow, U.S. Patent No. 4,963,367.

- 10 Claims 5-8 are drawn to a medicinal preparation comprising an active medicinal substance in therapeutic dose and a potentiated homeopathic medicinal substance having a same chemical formula or composition as said active medicinal substance. The patentability in composition claims resides in
15 the compound, no matter what method of production is set forth. A compound that has the "identical" chemical formula as the active substance can not be differentiated from the active substance. The open claim language also allows for the addition of common or suitable excipients or carriers. As such, applicant
20 has made a claim to any compound of therapeutic nature. Ecanow anticipates these claims as it discloses a medicinal preparation comprising a material carrier and one or more active compounds dispersed in an aqueous solution (see claim 5 and p.1-3).

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THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CAR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CAR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Howard Owens whose telephone number is (703) 306-4538 . The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Primary Examiner signing this action, Gary Geist, can be reached on (703) 308-1701 . The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4224.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Howard Owens

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GARY GEIST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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